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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor                    Thomas FEST et al  
Patent App.                Not known (US Nat'l phase of  
PCT/EP2003/009710)  
Filed                      Concurrently herewith  
For                        DEVICE FOR THE CONTINUOUS CASTING OF METALS, IN  
                            PARTICULAR  
Art Unit                   Not known  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,  
please amend as follows:

In the translation serving as Specification:

Page 1, before Paragraph 1 insert

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**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is the US national phase  
of PCT application PCT/EP2003/009710 filed 2  
September 2003 with a claim to the priority of  
German patent application 10244596.6 itself  
filed 21 September 2002.

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